



NEWS RELEASE

10-123

Today's Date: Thursday, September 23, 2010
District: 1 - Eureka
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALTRANS ADDRESSES PUBLIC CONCERNS ON ROUTES 29 AND 175 CHIP SEAL PROJECTS IN LAKE COUNTY

Eureka – There are many different strategies utilized to maintain California Highways, and each strategy includes both advantages and disadvantages over the others. The rubberized chip seal strategy used in these projects was intended to seal and preserve the existing pavement while providing increased winter traction. One benefit of chip seal is that the same dollars can treat three times more pavement than an asphalt thin blanket overlay. It also provides an excellent surface for future paving projects, helping to firmly bind new pavement to old. The rubberized chip seal is also a green technology. Approximately 40,000 recycled tires were used to produce the material for these projects.

These chip seal projects are the first in District 1 to use 1/2-inch aggregate rather than the more common 3/8-inch. Although the final surface provides high traction and will continue to smooth over time, additional work is planned. Caltrans is accelerating an asphalt overlay project already in development to address the segment of Route 175 recently chip sealed. It is anticipated the Route 175 work to be completed next summer. Discussions about a similar strategy for Route 29 are ongoing. Funds have been applied for and a schedule is being developed. The Route 29 work is anticipated to occur in the near future.

Caltrans thanks all those who took the time to express concerns about these chip seal projects, and asks for patience while we work to provide new highway surfaces.

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